



# **STATELESSNESS IN AFRICA**

**HEALTH RIGHTS,  
FEMINISM AND  
THORNY FUNDING  
ISSUES**



# INTRODUCTION

- What is statelessness?
- What causes of statelessness does this research focus on?
- Why is this a health issue?
- Why is this a feminist issue?

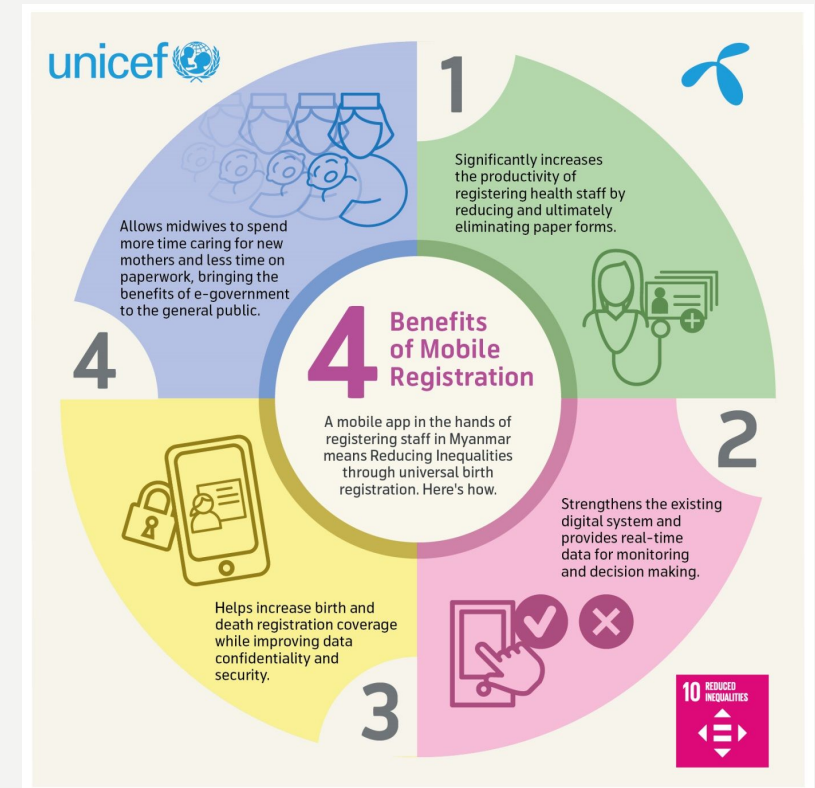
*Image Credit: <https://righttoremain.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/flags.png>*



# HEALTH RIGHTS IN AFRICA

- Health policy
- Statelessness and socio-economic rights: the lived realities
- Links to birth registration
- The lived experience of stateless children and adults
- The feminisation of poverty
- African children's "double disadvantage"

- Images credit:  
[https://citizen.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/WEB\\_PHOTO\\_VISAS\\_010615-744x418.jpg](https://citizen.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/WEB_PHOTO_VISAS_010615-744x418.jpg)
- <https://www.telenor.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/DBR-Myanmar-Infographic.jpg>



## THE ROLE OF GRASSROOTS VERSUS DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION

- Education in Africa
- Development Education in the Global North
- Complementarity of approaches



- *Image credit:*  
<https://globalactionplan.ie/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/SDGs.png>



EDUCATION



FOOD



WATER



INFRASTRUCTURE



AGRICULTURE



ENVIRONMENT

WHAT IS FOREIGN AID?



PEACE BUILDING



HEALTH CARE



MARKETS & TRADE



EMERGENCY RELIEF

Source: bit.ly/2u9LAnv



RESILIENCE



TRAINING

## FUNDING

The thorny issue.

Why is it controversial?

Overcoming donor  
resistance in this area.

Image credit:

[www.concernusa.org%2Fstory%2F5-things-you-need-to-know-about-foreign-aid%2F&psig=AOvVawIYJ7v60IETU4bnOvduS0Bd&ust=1566295909766201](http://www.concernusa.org%2Fstory%2F5-things-you-need-to-know-about-foreign-aid%2F&psig=AOvVawIYJ7v60IETU4bnOvduS0Bd&ust=1566295909766201)



# CONCLUSION

- Other factors are at play:
  - Legal reform: regionally and within individual countries
  - Pressure for state compliance
- Statelessness is a [human rights issue](#), obviously not specific to women since any person may find themselves stateless. There is practical sense in approaching statelessness specifically caused by a lack of birth registration as an issue of feminist importance, given the primarily mother-initiated process of registration of births.
- Adequate realisation of [health rights](#) is inexorably linked to a coherent strategy to combat statelessness.
- Of particular interest is the movement advocating for [universal birth registration](#) as a mechanism to break down the perpetual cycle of poverty and particularly the feminisation of poverty.

# CONTACT DETAILS

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- Full paper available at:

Fighting Statelessness in Africa: The Potential Role of Feminist Development Education (August 15, 2019). Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3437686>

